Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04287 230015Z

16
ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ABF-01 IO-10 /025 W
---------- 128311
R 220726Z APR 75
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4651

UNCLAS HONG KONG 4287

FOR S/R: ORM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: USARM PROGRAM FUNDING

REF: STATE 87895

1. GIVEN CONTINUED FLUCTUATION OF HK DOLLAR-US DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE PRECISELY ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED BY FOUR SERVICE CONTRACTS IN ORDER TO MEET CONTRACTED HONG KONG DOLLAR EXPENDITURES. HOWEVER, AT PRESENT RATE OF EXCHANGE, WE ANTICIPATE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS: CRS, AN ADDITIONAL US$65 FOR A MARCH-DECEMBER TOTAL OF $75,616; ISS, AN ADDITIONAL $247, MARCH-DECEMBER TOTAL $19,806; IRC, NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING, TOTAL MARCH-DECEMBER $69,654; HKCS, ADDITIONAL $344, MARCH-DECEMBER $64,389. THIS WOULD BRING CALENDAR YEAR CONTRACT TOTALS FOR FOUR SERVICE CONTRACTS TO $276,260, AN OVERALL INCREASE OF $1,242 OVER ORIGINAL ESTIMATES LAST DECEMBER.

2. WHILE WE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST IN HOLDING OFF ON CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS UNTIL LATER IN YEAR, YIM TIN TSAI HOUSING PROJECT HAS REACHED POINT WHERE DECISION MUST BE MADE WHETHER TO SCRAP FOR TIME-BEING THE COMMUNITY CENTER, AND TO MAKE FURTHER CUTS IN HOUSING. PROJECT ALREADY REQUIRES AN ADDITIONAL $110,000 FOR COMPLETION OF HOUSING PART ONLY. THIS PART, HOWEVER, IS GOING AHEAD LARGELY ON FAITH THAT FUNDS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE LATER ON. COMMUNITY CENTER WOULD COST AN ADDITIONAL $50,000. PROJECT'S OFFICIAL OPENING NOW SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 28 AND REVEREND YIP HAD HOPED THAT, WITH IMMEDIATE ADDITIONAL
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PAGE 02 HONG K 04287 230015Z

USARM FUNDING, ENTIRE PROJECT INCLUDING COMMUNITY CENTER MIGHT BE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

COMPLETED BY THAT DATE. HE HAS GONE AHEAD WITH HOUSING PORTION DESPITE THE FUNDING SHORTFALL BUT IS RELUCTANT TO TAKE ON THE COMMUNITY CENTER WITHOUT DEFINITE FUNDING COMMITMENT.

3. IF CONSTRUCTION IS HALTED AFTER COMPLETION OF HOUSING UNITS ONLY, WE BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL CHARGES IN ORDER TO REINSTITUTE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER PORTION. PRELIMINARY WORK HAS ALREADY BEGUN ON FOUNDATION AND SITE OF COMMUNITY CENTER, WHICH WILL IN ANY CASE, BE INCLUDED IN TOTAL CONTRACT COST. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WE WOULD URGE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION IN GOING AHEAD WITH COMPLETION OF THE FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
CROSS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

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